

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the requirements for an election of invention and an election of species in the Office Action dated December 5, 2005, for which one month was allotted for reply. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The acknowledgement of the examiner of the preliminary amendment filed on April 11, 2005 is appreciated. It may be further noted that two Information Disclosure Statements are of record in this application, a first filed on June 28, 2004 to cite documents mentioned at page 1 of the specification, a second filed on April 25, 2005 to cite documents mentioned at pages 43 and 61 of the specification as filed.

Election/Restriction**Election of Invention**

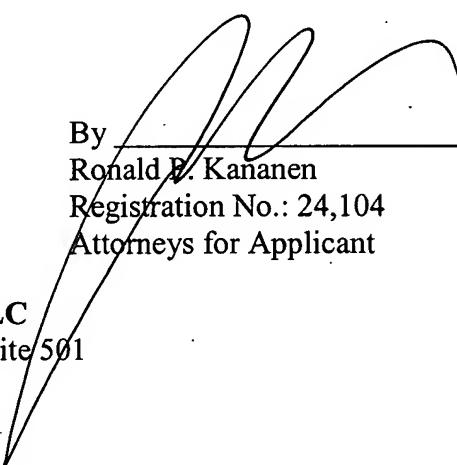
In response to the pending Action requiring an election of invention, the Applicant, through its representatives and attorneys, respectfully provisionally elects the invention of Group 1, Claims 1-7 and 10-16, as drawn to a data reading method, classified in class 365, subclass 145. The method claims of Group II (claims 8, 9 and 17-20 are canceled without disclaimer or prejudice to their presentation in a submission in a divisional application as of right. That divisional application will be filed in normal course.

Conclusion

Early examination on the merits of the elected claims 1 to 7 and 10 to 16 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the event additional fees are necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 180013 for any such fees, and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.